

CD 99-43/44



FACULTY OF MUSIC

presents

A TRIBUTE TO ELMER ISELER

Doreen Rao, conductor

with special guests

Sir David Willcocks, *Wilma & Clifford Smith Visitor
in Music*

The Elmer Iseler Singers

Lydia Adams

Philip Thomson

University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra

MacMillan Singers

Concert Choir

Women's Chorus

Saturday, April 10, 1999

8:00 p.m.

MacMillan Theatre

98
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
99

PH/EP-PP 12
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

presents

A TRIBUTE TO

Elmer Iseler

Programme

Otto Nicolai
(1810-1849)

Fest Overture, Op. 32
(on Eine feste Burg)

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

Adagio, Op. 11

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Fantasy for Piano, Choir and Orchestra,
Op. 80

Philip Thomson, piano

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Worthy is the Lamb that was Slain
from *Messiah*

INTERMISSION

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Zadok the Priest

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling

Arthur Honegger
(1892-1955)

The Death of David from *King David*

Srul Irving Glick
(b. 1934)

The Hour Has Come (Poem VI)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violin 1

Lynn Kuo, *Concertmaster* #
Daniel Bard
Shane Kim
Katarina Kin
Rebecca Kurtis
David Rehner
Sarah Rukkila
Katherine Unrau
Anita Walsh

Violin 2

Sarah Pratt, *Principal*
Andrew Chung
Elspeth Lacy
Michael Pallett
Aidan Pendleton
Robert Uchida
Sophia Wilson

Viola

Max Mandel, *Principal*
Claudine Guidoin
Jeewon Kim
Liliana Ripandelli
Daniel Trinh
Ursula Zielinski

Violoncello

Mateusz Swoboda, *Principal*
Darko Butorac
Paul Chaddock
Karen Houston
Kristen Wanner

Double Bass

Brian Baty, *Principal*
Hilda Cowie
Jordan Kirkness
Lee McPhee
Meaghan Williams

Harp

Katharine Neufeld

Flute

Stephen Lam
Rosalind MacPhail
Raven Wong

Oboe

Elisabeth Mellinger
Keri Skitch

Clarinet

Alanna Bello
Alison Norman
Robert Woolfrey

Bass Clarinet

Alison Norman

Bassoon

Cathleen Biggs #
Amber Hill

Horn

Stacy Allison
Cresta de Graaff
Jane MacKay
Seanan McGee

Trumpet

Greg Colley
Kelly Devenish
Donovan Fuller

Trombone

Nicholas Francis
Nevawn Patrick

Bass Trombone

Colin Harris

Timpani

Nathan Archer

Percussion

Ed Choi
Scott Vernon

Organ

John Bryan

Celeste

Ilya Poletaev

Director of Theatre Operations

MacMillan Theatre
Fred Perruzza

Manager

Pre-concert Fanfare

Matthew Brooks
Greg Colley
Kelly Devenish
Donovan Fuller
David Locke
Brian Vincent
Stacy Allison
Cresta de Graaff
Seanan McGee
Matt Banks
Nick Francis
Colin Harris
Nevawn Patrick
James Housego
Andrew Shaw
Melissa Thornton
Alicia Broomhead
Inderjit Mudhar
Clayton Warren
Ed Choi
Scott Vernon

THE ELMER ISLER SINGERS

Lydia Adams, Conductor

Soprano

Donna Colley
Jamie Ray
Carrie Loring
Kathleen Tapp Mock
Rebecca Whelan
Ann Wright

Alto

Carolyn Kirby
Andrea Ludwig
Alison Roy
Christine Stelmacovich

Tenor

Donald Bartle
Stephen Powell
Kevin Skelton
Edward Wiens

Bass

Esteban Cambre
David Havery
Alexander Jozefacki
David King
Nelson Lohnes
Michael Thomas

MACMILLAN SINGERS

Doreen Rao, Conductor

Soprano

Leslie Bradley
Shannon Butcher, *Manager*
Patricia Empringham
Emilie Frise
Laura Halls
Virginia Hatfield
Jennifer Smith
Maghan Stewart
Abigail Wong

Alto

Katrina Asner
Melinda Delorme
Caroline Kuehn
Mireille Lebel
Joy Lee
Alice Malach
Wendy Visser

Tenor

David Ambrose
David Dellaire
Matthew Humphreys
Carmine Lappano
James Levesque
Veniamin Lountchenko
Kevin Skelton

Bass

Ian Bent
Chad Clark
Bryan Estabrooks
Steven Fraser
Matthew Leigh
Marc Michalak
Eldon Ng
Stephen Roe
Giles Tomkins

CONCERT CHOIR

Lori-Anne Dolloff, Conductor

Soprano

Mary Aimoniotis
Joo-Yong Chong
Samantha Clarke
Joni Henson
Juliet Hess
Esther Joo
Elizabeth Kinghorn
Jessica Luckett
Jessica McCormack
Eve McLeod
Jadelyn Ong
Lisa Paul
Brigitte Reid
Annelie Reimer

Karen Sabaratnam
Tracy Smith
Rebecca Yoo

Alto

Georgiana Balanica
Cécile Denis
Debbie Jonas
Sunny Lee
Jennifer Lee
Adine Mintz, *Manager*
Tara Nadal
Jessie Ross
Cindy Saunders
Penelope Sutton

Vicky Watt

Jennifer Yeung
Jordann Zaza

Tenor

David Ambrose
Kevin Bieman
George Ohki
Eric Osborne
Mark Schaub

Baritone

Brandon Cunningham
Darren Jahn
Chris Kendy

Jeff Schneider

Bass

Adam Brox
John Bryan
David Carovillano
Jesse Clark
Francis Lee
Jonathan Mitchell
Alex Sanna
Frank Sinclair
Marty Smyth
Jeremy Strachan
Kevin Tam
Marcus Tom-Pack
Richard Woodward

WOMEN'S CHORUS

James Pinhorn, Conductor

Soprano I

Arlene Charters, *Manager*
Anna Coodin
Kimberly Madill
Olivia Rallis
Diana Saadi
Maran Stern
Katherine Whyte
Heidi Kim

Soprano II

Florence Ahn
Julie Dawson
Keri Ferencz
Sarah Jerrom
Deborah Kim
Meghan Roberts
Rachel Yoon

Alto I

Anna-Louise Moorman
Natalka Podstawka
Ronée Boyce
Sonya Sim
Eliza Wong
Alyssa Michalsky

Alto II

Catherine Arcand
Tiffany Butt
Catherine Cheng
Kristen Gilbert
Erica Huang
Maša Manojilovic

text and translations

 **Otto Nicolai**

Fest Overture (on Eine feste Burg)

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of Mortal ills prevailing.


For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Ludwig van Beethoven

Fantasy for Piano, Choir and Orchestra

Soft and sweet thro' ether winging,
Sound the harmonies of life,
Their immortal flowers springing
Where the soul is free from strife.

Peace and joy are sweetly blended
Like the waves alternate play;
What for mastery contended
Learns to yield and to obey.

 When on music's mighty pinion
Souls of men to Heaven rise,
Then doth vanish earth's dominion,
Man is native to the skies.

Calm without and calm within us,
Is the bliss for which we long,
If of art the magic win us,
Joy and calm are turn'd to song.

With its tide of joy unbroken,
Musc floods our life surrounds,
What a master mind has spoken
Thro' eternity resounds.

Oh receive, ye joy invited
All its blessings without guile,
When to love is pow'r united,
Then the Gods approving smile.

Johannes Brahms

How lovely are Thy dwellings
(from *A German Requiem*)

How lovely are Thy dwellings fair, O Lord of Hosts!
My soul ever longeth and fainteth sore for the blest
courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh do cry to the living God.
O blest are they that in Thy house are dwelling;
they ever praise Thee, O Lord, they praise Thee for evermore.
(Psalm 84)

Srul Irving Glick

The Hour has come
(from *The Hour Has Come: A Choral Symphony*)

The hour has come
for mankind to embrace,
for the sun blazes
upon the conscience of the earth
and time is growing short
and what is visible must be seen,
for the fire is intense
in the consciousness of the planet
and healing is the yearning of her heart.

Our cells are life's tissue,
our bones and marrow her rivers and narrows.

Our heart pumps the cry of her heart
and our soul breathes
the spirit of her song.

Where are thou, O family of man,
sisters and brothers?
The hour has come to love.

(Carole H. Leckner b. 1946)



Elmer Walter Iseler, L.L.D., O.C., O.Ont.

1927 – 1998

In a career that spanned five decades the *Dean of Canadian Choral Conductors*, Elmer Iseler, was pivotal to the development of choral music in Canada. After founding the *Festival Singers* in 1954, Canada's first professional choir, he became Artistic Director and Conductor of the 180-voice *Toronto Mendelssohn Choir* for 33 years. In 1979 he established Canada's leading chamber choir, the 20-voice *Elmer Iseler Singers*. He also enjoyed a long association with the *Toronto Symphony Orchestra*, conducting over 150 performances of Handel's *Messiah*, and often premiering complex twentieth century music. Under his baton, Dr. Iseler's choirs achieved international stature for their technical brilliance and artistic versatility. He has, in the estimation of many of his peers in Canada and abroad, created a vibrant world class choral infrastructure in Canada.

While the breadth of his achievements are many, several critical contributions make Dr. Iseler singular in his legacy to Canada. He achieved a sound and technique in choral singing which was without parallel in Canada, establishing a benchmark in Canadian choral music to which other choirs across this country and internationally aspire. He established a tradition of commissioning Canadian compositions, fostering that goal as one of his priorities. He encouraged young Canadian performers, deriving great enjoyment from making music with young people; this pleasure was reflected in his work with the *National and Ontario Youth Choirs*. He taught choral music at U of T 1965 to 68, and was appointed Adjunct Professor of Choral Music in the fall of 1997, when he and the *Elmer Iseler Singers*, as the professional choir-in-residence at the Faculty of Music, worked directly with the students.

The most decorated musician in Canada, and honoured with many awards nationally and internationally, including an honorary doctorate from U of T, Elmer Iseler's impact will continue undiminished through his many recordings, the ongoing performances and work of the *Elmer Iseler Singers*, the *Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting* and the *Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowships in Choral Conducting* at the University of Toronto.

about the artists

DOREEN RAO's distinguished career as a conductor and teacher links the demanding standards of professional performance with the goals of music education. Celebrated for her spirited and moving concerts, Rao completed music education's first philosophical investigation on vocal performance as music education, focusing on singing as a form of knowledge and a source of self-esteem. Rao's commitment to choral music is demonstrated in her worldwide appearances as conductor, masterclass teacher, lecturer and in her award-winning publications.

Doreen Rao is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Programmes at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, where she founded and conducts the MacMillan Singers. She teaches advanced choral conducting and graduate courses in music education, and she regularly conducts the U of T Symphony Orchestra and Choirs in performances of major works, with an emphasis on contemporary Canadian and American music. Doreen Rao's Choral Music Experience concept of music performance as music education serves as the theoretical foundation for her influential publications including her choral textbooks and her extensive choral music series.

In a tribute presented to her by the American Choral Directors Association, the eminent American conductor Robert Shaw wrote: "The world of choral music owes her special thanks. She is preparing our future." Canadian journalist Bronwyn Drainie described Doreen Rao as "a brilliant artist and teacher....whose methods and materials could re-energize the art of singing in our schools."

Wilma & Clifford Smith Visitor in Music SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS was born in 1919 in Cornwall. He began his musical training at the age of nine as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, later winning scholarships to Clifton College and King's College Cambridge where he took his BA and BMus. During the war he was awarded a MC while serving in Normandy. On returning home he was elected a Fellow of King's College Cambridge, and appointed Conductor of the Cambridge Philharmonic Society. Subsequently he became Organist of Salisbury Cathedral, and later of Worcester Cathedral. He was responsible for the Three Choirs Festivals of 1951, 1954 and 1957. From 1957 to 1974 he was Director of Music at King's College Cambridge, University Lecturer in Music and Conductor of the Cambridge University Musical Society. He was Director of the Royal College of Music from 1974 to 1984 during which time he received his knighthood in The Queen's Silver Jubilee Honours.

Sir David was Musical Director of *The Bach Choir* from 1960 to 1998. For 38 years his personal magnetism inspired performances of vivid excitement, power and sensitivity. Under his direction, both *The Bach Choir* and *King's College Choir* have made many recordings of great choral and orchestral works with leading orchestras. He is the recipient of many awards and honorary degrees both in the UK and abroad. With his energy, enthusiasm and good sense of humour he continues to stand for choral training and musical excellence worldwide. His international reputation ensures a full schedule of commitments as guest conductor and clinician around the world. It is with great pleasure the Faculty of Music welcomes Sir David Willcocks to the University of Toronto.

Born in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, PHILIP THOMSON received his early training with Carol O'Neil until he went to the University of Toronto, where his teacher was Pierre Souvairan. Subsequently he studied at New York's Juilliard School under Abbey Simon. While there, he won the school's Liszt competition, and performed the Liszt Concerto No. 1 at Alice Tully Hall with the Juilliard Orchestra. Before he finished his studies he had already concertized widely in Canada, both in solo recitals and concerto performances. He has since played with all of Canada's major orchestras. Philip Thomson's "profound musicianship" (Classical Music Magazine, Canada) and "beautifully liquid romanticism," (la Libre Belgique, Belgium) along with his "sheer piano virtuosity," (The Ottawa Citizen) and "hair-raising power" (London Financial Times) have earned him recognition outside of Canada. He has performed in England, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Italy, and throughout Ireland and the Eastern United States. For two weeks in the fall of 1996, he was in Chengdu, China, teaching and performing at the Sichuan Conservatory. His performances have been broadcast on radio and he has appeared several times on CBC television. Mr. Thomson received wide attention in 1991 when his world premiere recording of the Maxwell edition of Liszt's *De Profundis* and two other rarely-heard Liszt concertos garnered critical acclaim in musical journals throughout the world.

An active teacher, Philip Thomson taught for five years at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, and has been on the faculty of the University of Akron, Ohio, since 1994. Mr. Thomson records for Naxos Records, and has completed five CDs of Liszt's music, the first two of which were released in the summer of 1997.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CHORAL PROGRAMMES

As we approach the millennium, our undergraduate program in choral performance and choral music education will be enhanced by the arrival of an international roster of promising graduate students in conducting. Our music education students continue to enjoy the profound benefits of the Elmer Iseler Singers Artists-in-Residence choral apprenticeship. We are grateful to the Elmer Iseler Singers and their Artistic Director Lydia Adams for their artistic commitment to the education young singers and conductors at the Faculty of Music.

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*Steinway piano courtesy of
Remenyi House of Music*

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THE ELMER ISELER SINGERS, a 20-voice chamber choir based in Toronto, has built an enviable international reputation since its debut performance in 1979. Founded by and nurtured under the direction of the late Dr. Elmer Iseler, the *Dean of Canadian Choral Conductors*, this justly celebrated choir makes over 100 appearances annually throughout Canada and the United States. With repertoire that spans 500 years of choral music, the Elmer Iseler Singers are noted for their flawless technique and wide interpretive range. Champions of contemporary choral repertoire, the Elmer Iseler Singers regularly commission and perform new works. The choir is frequently involved in radio and television broadcasts and a wide variety of recording projects. The Elmer Iseler Singers won the Grand Prix du Disque (Canada) for *Serenade in Harmony* with the Netherlands Chamber Choir, and again for *Welcome Yule* and *Laudate Dominum*. The Elmer Iseler Singers have made many festival appearances including the Canada in Holland Festival, the Olympic Arts Festivals in Seoul and Calgary, the Joy of Singing International Choral Festival in Toronto, and most recently Festival 500 in Newfoundland. The Elmer Iseler Singers are highly valued for their contributions to master classes and workshops for schools and community choirs, and are the current Choir-in-Residence at the University of Toronto. The Elmer Iseler Singers are launching 2 new CD's in 1998. *The Maple Leaf Forever*, recorded on the Opening Day label, was released this past spring. The second, *Noël* will be released in early November by Marquis Classics in conjunction with the Canadian Musical Heritage Society.

LYDIA ADAMS enjoys a long 16-year association with the world-renowned choir stemming from the time she began with the Singers as their pianist. She was appointed interim Music Director of the Elmer Iseler Singers in February 1998 and later that year became the full time conductor of the choir.

Ms. Adams is also celebrating her 13th season as conductor of the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto. Under her direction, the Amadeus Choir has experienced tremendous musical and organizational growth. Her successful initiatives include the realization of the Choir's move to the George Weston Recital Hall in North York as Choir in Residence, the production of the Choir's first CD. *Ring-a the News!*, commissioning four major works from Canadian composers, establishing the Choir's international Christmas Carol and Chanukah Song Writing Competition, and launching and editing the Amadeus Choir Series, published by Gordon V. Thompson.

A native of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Ms. Adams received her musical education at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, and at the National Opera Studio and the Royal College of Music, both in London, England. Winner of the Sir Adrian Boult conducting award, Lydia also conducted the prestigious Ontario Youth Choir in 1992. In 1996, the Ontario Award, as one of 27 individuals who have made significant contribution to the growth of choral music in Ontario. In 1997, on International Women's Day, Lydia Adams received the "Award for Outstanding Achievement" presented by the Women's Intercultural Network of Toronto. She is also a recipient of the 1997 City of Scarborough Bi-Centennial Civic Award of Merit.

*Special thanks to Choral Concert and CBC Radio Two for their support of
Sir David Willcocks' travel and our Elmer Iseler Tribute events.*

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